1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1933 SR9 Carib SR9

556 the accumulation of wealth has little correlation with social status.
422 There are certain material essentials, which have been described in
511 our chapters on material culture, and these every household must possess if it is to survive. The list of these essentials is not large, as compared with the possessions of more complex cultures; but it must be remembered that the major part of the Carib possessions are really essentials, there are few luxuries in the catalogue of Carib material culture. Thus, the accumulation of essential goods is merely a matter of convenience, the goods have little social connotation in themselves. A man may have two bows, so that he will not be inconvenienced should one break, but he would consider it a foolish waste of time to make a dozen bows. He would have no use for them, and he would add nothing to his prestige (in fact, would damage his reputation for intelligence) in the eyes of his fellows by possessing such a surplus.

556 One of the reasons for the surprizingly considerate treatment
461 which Indians receive from outsiders in this region is the fact that the latter have been forced to recognize that beyond a certain point, the mere possession of property means nothing to the Caribs. Every gold digger, lumber operator, and balata bleeder who has traveled on the Barama will tell you of the difficulty he has in keeping his Indian boatmen and laborers at work. "An Indian will work only until he gets what he wants and then he will quit cold," is a common observation. Consequently, anyone who relies on a native crew must depend upon the personal relations which he establishes with his workmen to a larger extent than the trade goods which he can give them.

251 Accumulations of food are likewise of little significance to the Caribs, for two reasons: the climate does not permit prolonged preservation of native food products, and daily supplies of food are readily available to the competent hunter and agriculturist, though not without a certain amount of effort, it is true. Cassava bread is the only food product which can be kept over a period of months, and such preservation is resorted to only in cases of necessity, inasmuch as the flavor of the product is adversely affected by storage.

301 A small number of luxuries are held in esteem by the Caribs.
511 Among those which they produce themselves are necklaces of teeth and seeds, cotton fillets, bracelets, and other ornaments.

*177 175 466 [484] Baird further sought to secure Carib clients with special benefits. He tended to the emergencies of his workers and their families day and night. From time to time, Baird made trips to Georgetown possible by allowing workers to ride one way free on the charter flights which [891] left the air pool and later the air strip empty. In 1966, he started the first school. It was built at In Time and staffed by a teacher Baird privately paid.

*177 175 443 43 [434] Baird's trade store was operated primarily as a service for the workers. Local provisions were bought and sold at the same price. This policy was used also with many foods flown in from Georgetown. The thirty-two or more workers who earned about $4 a day had an income of approximately $1200 a year. As these workers had only small gardens [241] and their wives and other members of their households enjoyed a great deal of leisure, most provisions were purchased. [461] Cassava bread, the staple, sold for 16¢ a disk which is about a half inch thick and two feet in diameter. Local fish and meat sold for about 40¢ a pound. Rice, sugar, salt fish, canned milk, tinned sardines, and other foods were available. The store stocked a variety of implements for hunting, fishing, farming, and doing household chores. It also stocked cigarettes, matches, soap, cloth lengths, and manufactured clothes. Baird [452] extended each worker up to $100 credit and arranged special purchases. These included guns[2] and radios. One Carib man bought a portable, [454] manually operated Singer sewing machine in this manner. As there was no opportunity for investment, a worker would hide away somewhere about his house any cash he did not immediately use to make purchases.